



# Virginia Green Attractions

## Profile:



## Virginia Zoo Norfolk, Virginia

**Virginia Green** is the Commonwealth of Virginia's campaign to promote environmentally-friendly practices in all aspects of Virginia's tourism industry. **Virginia Green Attractions** have been thoughtfully planned and designed to minimize their impacts on the environment. This attraction has met the established "core activities" for **Green Attractions** and has committed to communicate its activities to its guests. Below is a list of this attraction's "green" activities that guests can expect.

### Virginia Zoo

"The Virginia Zoo is a zoological park that serves people, animals and the environment through programs that emphasize recreation, education and conservation."

**Green Statement:** "Our culture is to practice environmentally responsible actions as part of our overall commitment to protecting wildlife and habitats."



### CORE ACTIVITIES for all *Virginia Green Attractions*

#### CORE ACTIVITIES for Green Attractions

- ☒ **Recycling and Waste Reduction.** Virginia Green facilities must recycle and are highly encouraged to maintain a comprehensive recycling program. This facility pledges that they:
  - Recycle: glass, aluminum cans, plastic, office paper, toner cartridges, cardboard, packing supplies, batteries, electronic equipment
  - Use newspaper to line kennels and carriers for animals
  - Track overall waste bills
  - Compost food waste and other compostables
  - Have an effective food inventory control to minimize waste
  - Purchase locally grown produce and other foods
  - Purchase organic and "sustainably-grown" foods
  - Use reusable dishware and glassware to minimize use of disposables
  - Use non-bleached napkins and coffee filters
  - Provide condiments, cream and sugar, etc. in bulk
  - Use bulk soap dispensers in public restrooms
  - Purchase recycled-content paper towels and toilet paper
  - Make 2-sided copies/ printed materials
  - Use electronic correspondence and forms
  - Use "green" cleaners that are dispensed in bulk
  - Have installed high efficiency hand-dryers in restrooms
  - Purchase durable equipment and furniture
  - Use reused building materials or those from sustainable sources
  - Use latex paints that are low VOC

- Perform preventative maintenance on all appliances, HVAC systems, plumbing, and vehicles
- Use a last-in/first-out inventory and labeling system
- Use less toxic materials
- Minimize the use of pesticides and herbicides
- Use a nutrient management plan that minimizes the use of fertilizers
- Use integrated pest management (IPM)
- All horticulture gardens and landscaping is managed organically
- Manage an on-grounds composting bin and use it to help educate visitors about at-home composting

☒ **Styrofoam/Disposables Minimization.** Participants are encouraged to minimize use of all disposables and eliminate the use of Styrofoam products for take-out and left-overs. This facility pledges that they:

- Use disposable containers made from bio-based materials, recycled content paper, and that are compostable and/or recyclable

☒ **Water Conservation.** The facility must have a plan for conserving water that should consider plumbing modifications and landscaping. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall water usage and wastewater
- Perform preventative maintenance to stop drips and leaks
- Have low flow toilets
- Sweep animal stalls instead of hosing them out to save gallons of water daily
- Have an effective landscape management plan which utilize drought tolerant species, metering and rain gauges, and minimizes lawn areas
- Have an effective stormwater management plan including: rain gardens, pervious pavement
- Maintain vegetative buffers around streams and ponds
- Irrigated gardens have a drip-line system which is shut off during rain events
- Have three rain gardens to clean and absorb storm water
- Maintain a large "dog house" with a green roof (Eco-Garden)
- Work in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Foundation to nurture oyster beds around the Lafayette River shoreline bordering the zoo
- Recently undertook a large project to restore wetlands along the river shoreline by removing invasive plants and restoring 9,000 natural trees, grasses, shrubs and herbaceous plants



☒ **Energy Conservation.** The facility must have a plan in place that encourages replacement of lighting and equipment to energy-efficient alternatives. This facility pledges that they:

- Track overall energy bills
- Have had an energy audit to identify efficiency opportunities
- Have an "energy management system" in place to track and meter energy usage
- Evaluate existing ovens and other kitchen equipment for energy efficiency
- Use:
  - compact fluorescent light bulbs in all rooms and in canned lighting
  - high efficiency fluorescent ballasts and lamps (T5s and T8s)
- Perform preventative maintenance on HVAC system
- Have individual thermostats for each room/area
- Use natural lighting and keep lights turned off when not needed
- Use lighting sensors to turn on/off lights
- Use occupancy sensors to turn on/off lights
- Use directional (downward-facing) lighting in parking areas and other outdoor areas

☒ **Green Events Package.** The facility must offer a “green” or “environmentally-friendly” package for conferences, meetings and other events. Even if the facility only offers occasional, small events, at least recycling will be provided. This facility pledges that they:

- Promote the availability of “green meetings/conferences” in marketing packages
- Put recycling barrels at the event sites so guests can properly dispose of plastic and other items
- Most private events held in open air tents, so there is a limited amount of electricity used

For more information on **Virginia Zoo**, see [www.virginiazoo.com](http://www.virginiazoo.com) or contact **Annie Vogt** at [anne.vogt@norfolk.gov](mailto:anne.vogt@norfolk.gov) or 757-441-2374.

For more information on **Virginia Green** program, see [www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/virginiagreen](http://www.deq.virginia.gov/p2/virginiagreen) or [www.virginiagreentravel.org](http://www.virginiagreentravel.org).



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